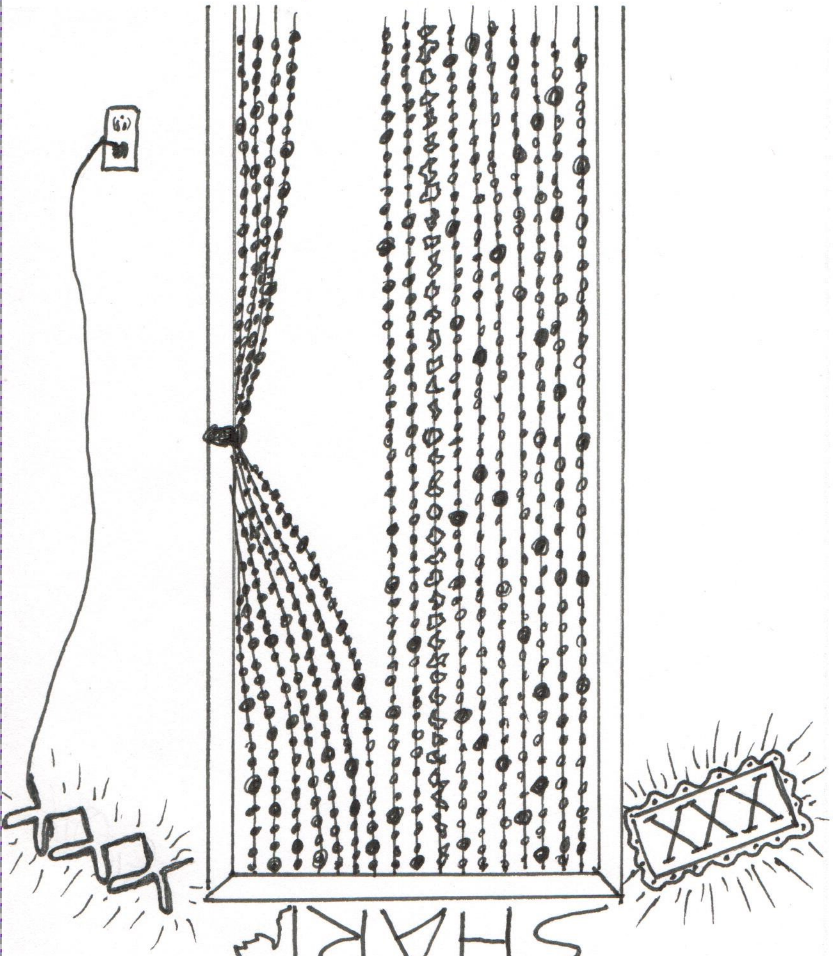

"Art
is anything
you can
get away with."

-Marshall McLuhan

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 7/9/24
trvose@hotmail.com

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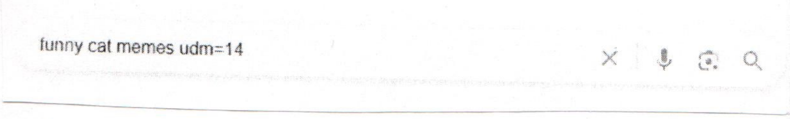
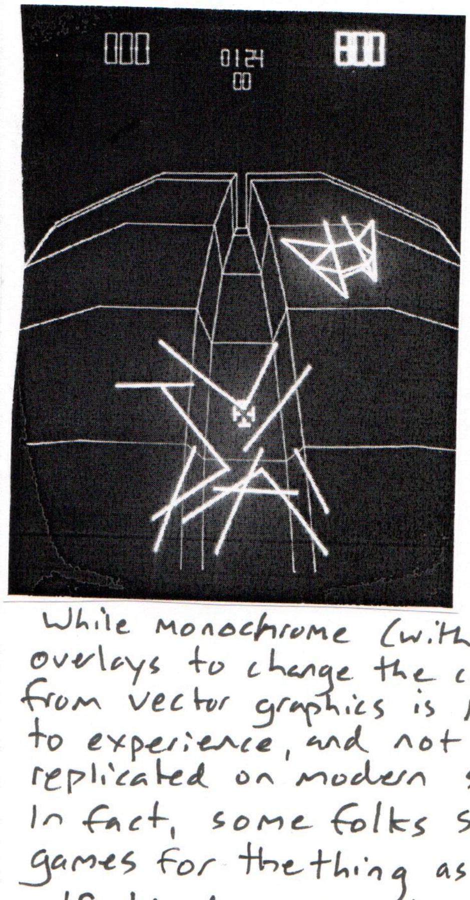
I recently learned a way to search in Google without ads or their shitty "AI Overviews" popping up.



funny cat memes udm=14

Adding "udm=14" to your query will cause your results to be free of all that garbage.

There's also a website, udm14.com, that will automatically insert the string into your query - as well as a browser add-on that gives you the option to make that the default.



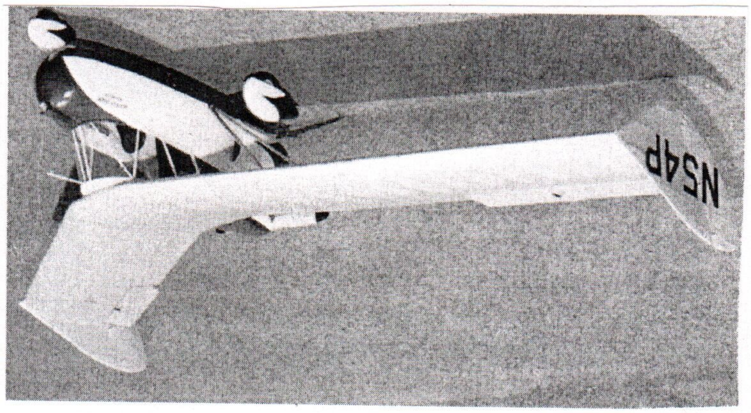
The Vectrex was a short-lived gaming console - only around a little over a year - (late 1982-early 1984) a victim of the 1983 crash. Its vector monitor, however, was a thing of beauty.

While monochrome (with plastic screen overlays to change the color), the glow from vector graphics is really something to experience, and not easily replicated on modern screens. In fact, some folks still make games for the thing as homebrew.

If I had an extra $500+ to blow, I'd get one...

"... it's the future, so where's my

## FLYING CAR?"



We had it already - almost 90 years ago. It even got FAA certified.

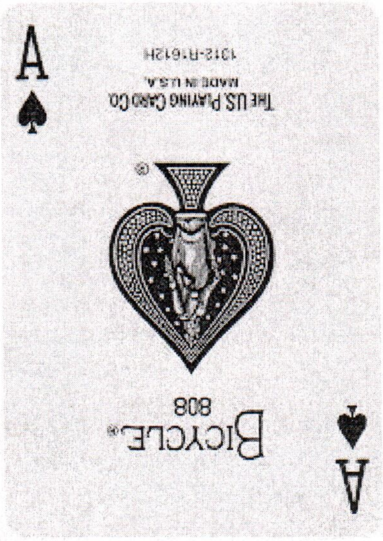
This was the Waterman Arrowbile (not Aerobile or Arrowplane) - the wing and propellor detached when on the road.

It actually sounds as though it flew well - they only made a handful, though. Of course, the question becomes - if people have this much trouble on the ground, why put the average driver in the sky?

Why "Bicycle?" Bikes were a fad at the time, so they capitalized on that.

Backs used to be white - but that smudged easily and it was easy to mark a deck for cheating...

Why is the Ace of Spades so fancy? It's the law! (Or was - 17th century England required it to have the imprint of the publisher)



The ace of Spades also was where a stamp was placed, indicating taxes were paid on it.

This bit is called the "index."

"Ace" just comes from French "as" - "a unit." Same place "deuce" comes from.

Spades come from the old "swords" suit, but the symbol is really a leaf, which is what German decks used.

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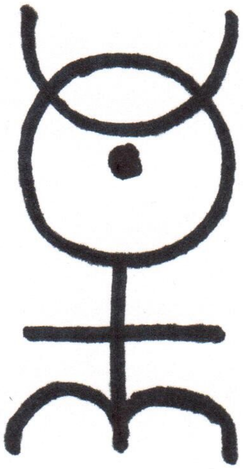
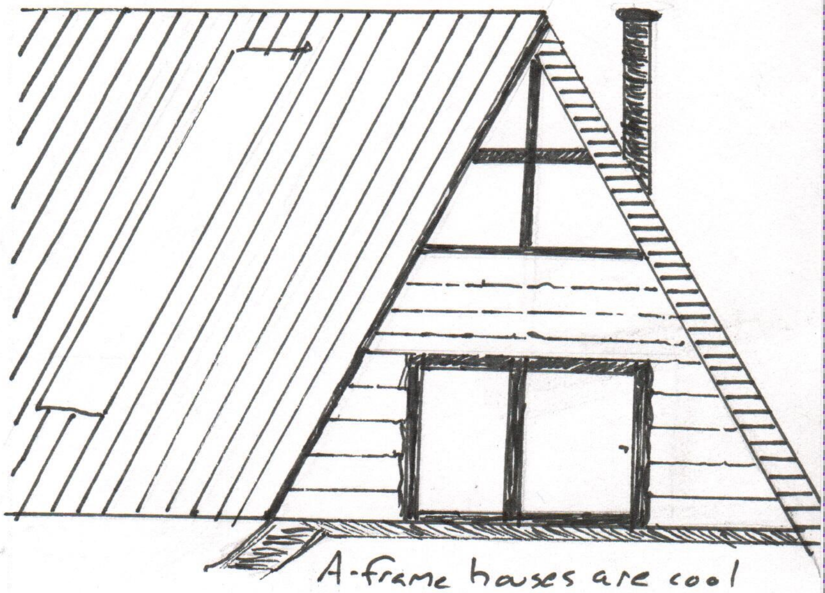
This is the Hieroglyphic Monad, a symbol created by alchemist / astrologer / magus / royal weirdo John Dee - who served as Queen Elizabeth's official sorcerer.



Dude devoted an entire book to explaining it as the central focus of alchemy, a symbol of how everything's like, connected, man, from Christian theology to planetary motions, to Kabbalah, math, star signs, birds and the classical elements. It's available online - the "Monas Hieroglyphica" - and... quite a thing.



A-frame houses are cool as hell.

(Massively inefficient from a design perspective, but you can't win 'em all.)

They were big in the '60s, and trace back to East and Southeast Asia influences being picked up by European colonial powers.

(And the roofs are pitched at a 60° angle)

## Chex MIX - My Much Better Version

Mix 3 cups Corn Chex, 3 cups Rice Chex and 3 cups Wheat Chex. Do not add pretzels or other gross crap, just Chex. Set aside.

Melt 12 tbsp butter in a saucepan. Stir in the following:

4-5 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
3 tsp. seasoned salt
1½ tsp. garlic salt
1 tsp. onion powder
2 tsp. smoked Tabasco
2-3 heaping tsp. chopped garlic

When mixed, drizzle sauce over Chex and toss until coated thoroughly. Bake at 250° for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

Them's good eatin'.

## Candy bars What sound naughty.

Oh Henry!
Nut Goodie
Mounds
Jumbo Push Pop
Butterfinger
Skor
Chunky
Coconut Long Boys

tee hee.

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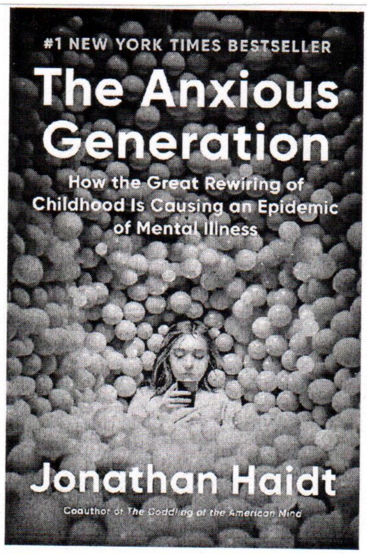
## You Should Read:



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Anxious Generation

How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness

Jonathan Haidt

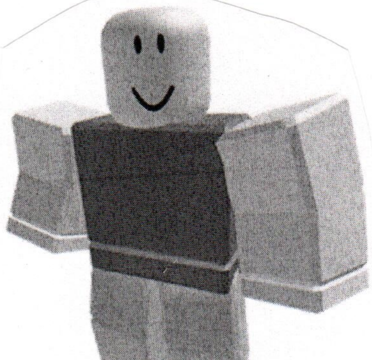
Coauthor of *The Coddling of the American Mind*

So it turns out using smart devices as pacifiers might not be the best idea. Also, social media is an addictive hellscape that destroys their self-image and attention span and stokes anger and fear by design. Who knew?

The last fifteen years or so have effectively been a mass social experiment on what personal devices become ubiquitous - and to younger and younger audiences. This book gathers the data and looks at what took place as kids grew up wired in to social media at all times - and it ain't pretty.

## hot take

I hate Roblox.



It's ugly as sin, for starters - makes Minecraft look like a masterpiece of design.

It's also ridiculously exploitative - the "hey, let's have kids make the content for us" business model is bad enough, and making it "Johnny's first lesson in late-stage capitalism" with their microtransactions is gross too (although, to be fair, they're far from the only guilty party there).

... and it makes me feel old.

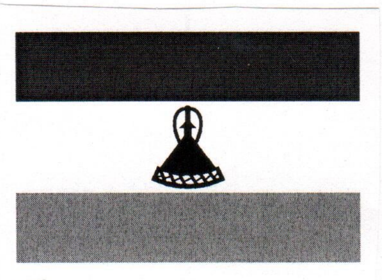
less' talk about

# LESOTHO

"The Kingdom in the Sky"

Very high up, so it gets a fair bit of snow - enough for one of the only ski resorts in sub-Saharan Africa!

This is a pretty badass picture of their king, Letsie III. He doesn't have real power, but is well-liked.

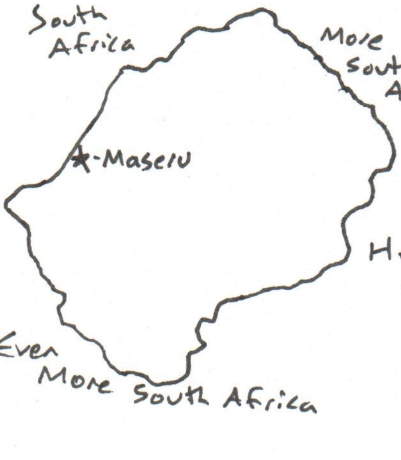


Their flag has a hat! (A mokorotlo) Blue and green, too - nice colors.

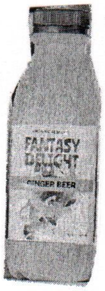
Has a great relationship with Ireland - who gives a fair bit of aid. ♣

Why isn't it part of South Africa?

The Gun War (prosaically named) - Cape Colony tried to disarm them and failed - so it stayed British until independence.

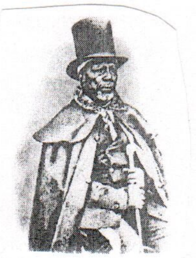

South Africa
More South Africa
★-Maseru
Here, too!
Even More South Africa

Big, sweeping, mountainous vistas!


FANTASY DELIGHT
GINGER BEER

Big fans of ginger beer!

The Sotho tribes united under Moshoeshoe I here, → but the Brits took over the place, calling it "Basutoland" until 1966.



Has real issues with

- hunger - the soil quality is declining
- AIDS - affects 23% of adults
- Employment - many work across in South Africa

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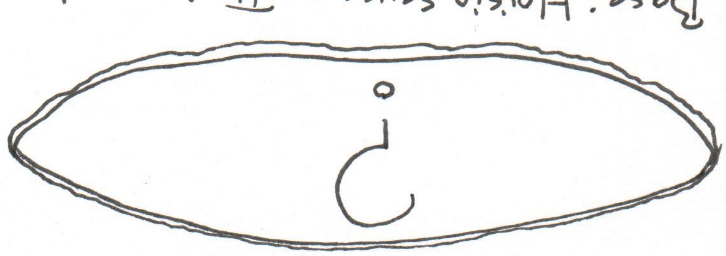
# RAMEN PIZZA

A Hypothetical



Base: Hoisin sauce or Thai peanut sauce

Cheese: Standard Mozzarella

Toppings: Any of the following:

- Green onion
- Tofu
- Baby corn
- Water chestnuts
- Chopped garlic
- Thin sliced beef
- Chicken
- Asian mushrooms
- Spinach

Cooked ramen on top, then drizzle with Sriracha. (If you try it, let me know!)

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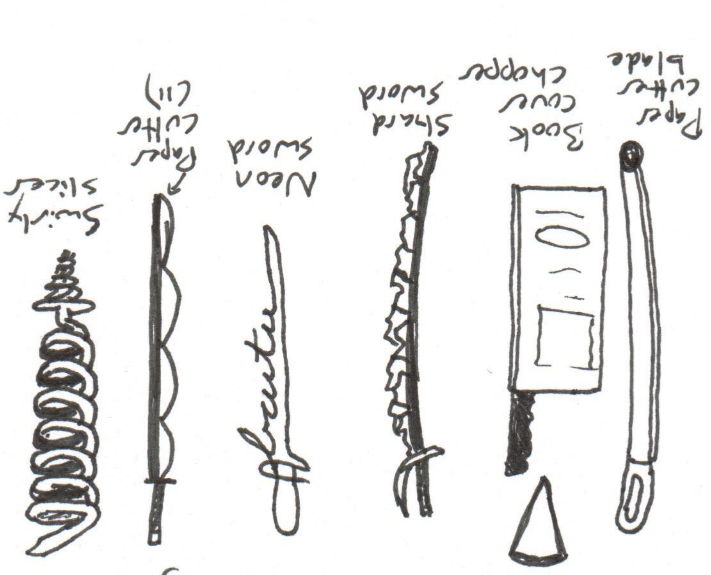
# SWORD LOSER

SWORD LOSER is a mini-RPG by Jackson Tegu that encourages you to doodle your own dumb swords and tell the story of how the protagonist found and lost them again.

Here are a few I thought of:


Paper cutter blade
Book cover chopper
Shard sword
Neon sword
Paper cutter (II)
Swirly slicer